

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-66 (Canceled).

Claim 67 (Previously Presented): An arrangement for manufacturing compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

a filter tube feeding element;

at least one processing station one of which comprises a rotating device for rotating filter tubes; and

at least one conveyor into which filter tubes are deposited from the feeding element for supplying the filter tubes to the at least one processing station,

wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one filtering material feeding station, the at least one filtering material feeding station comprising two off-center arranged rotating discs that are respectively provided with bores, with the bores of one disc and the bores of the other disc being arranged so as to be aligned at one location.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein the filter tubes are pre-manufactured wrapping material sections formed into tubes and containing a filter element arranged in a central region of each respective section.

Claim 69 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises a continuously circulating conveyor in which the filter tubes are conveyed cross-axially.

Claim 70 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises a single conveyor and the at least one processing station is arranged on the single conveyor.

Claim 71 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises a plurality of conveyors and at least one of the processing stations is assigned to some of the conveyors and maximally one

processing station is assigned to other conveyors.

Claim 72 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 71, wherein maximally one processing station is assigned to each conveyor.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one filtering material insertion station.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one removal station.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 67, wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one heating station.

Claim 76 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 73, wherein the at least one filtering material insertion station comprises at least one first transfer means for inserting filtering material into the filter tubes.

Claim 77 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 76, wherein the at least one filtering material insertion station includes at least one second transfer means that functions from the opposite end of the filter tube as a counter stop to the at least one first transfer means.

Claim 78 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 67, further including means for axially aligning the at least one filter tube with at least one of the bores.

Claim 79 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 78, wherein the axial aligning means is for aligning at least two of the bores with the filter tube.

Claim 80 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for producing compound filters for products in the tobacco-producing industry, comprising:

a filter-tube feeding element;

at least one conveyor into which filter tubes are insertable from the feeding element; and

at least one processing station for being supplied with the filter tubes by the at least one conveyor, wherein at least one of the processing stations is a filtering materials insertion station including means for inserting two portions of filtering materials into a filter tube in a single operational step,

wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a filtering material feeding station that includes two rotating and eccentrically arranged discs that are respectively provided with bores, with the bores of one disc and the bores of the other disc being positioned so that they are aligned at one location.

Claim 81 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 80, including means for arranging at least one filter tube so that it is axially aligned with at least two bores.

Claim 82 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein one of the processing stations comprises a rotating mechanism for rotating the filter tubes.

Claim 83 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises at least one continuously circulating conveyor which conveys the filter tubes cross-axially.

Claim 84 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises a single conveyor and at least one of the processing stations is arranged on the single conveyor.

Claim 85 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein

the at least one conveyor comprises a plurality of conveyors and at least one processing station is associated with each of the conveyors.

Claim 86 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein a maximum of one processing station is associated with each of the conveyors.

Claim 87 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the at least one conveyor comprises multiple conveyors, one of the conveyors being associated with at least one processing station and at least one of the conveyors being associated with only one of the processing stations.

Claim 88 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 80, wherein the filter tube has one end and said means for inserting comprises at least a first transfer means for inserting the at least two portions of the filtering materials in a single operational step into the one end of the filter tube.

Claim 89 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 88, wherein the filter tube has another end opposite the one end, and the first transfer means comprises at least one first plunger and the filtering material insertion station includes at least one second transfer means for providing at the opposite end of the filter tube a counter support to the at least one first plunger.

Claim 90 (Currently Amended): An arrangement for manufacturing compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

- a filter tube feeding element;

- a plurality of processing stations; and

- a single conveyor into which filter tubes are deposited from the feeding element for supplying the filter tubes to the processing stations wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one removal station.

Claim 91 (Currently Amended): The arrangement according to claim 90, wherein another one of the processing stations comprises a rotating device for rotating filter tubes.

Claim 92 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 90, wherein the conveyor comprises a continuously circulating conveyor in which the filter tubes are conveyed cross-axially.

Claim 93 (Currently Amended): The arrangement according to claim 90, wherein another one of the processing stations comprises at least one filtering material feeding station.

Claim 94 (Currently Amended): The arrangement according to claim 90, wherein another one of the processing stations comprises at least one filtering material insertion station.

Claim 95 (Canceled).

Claim 96 (Currently Amended): The arrangement according to claim 90, wherein another one of the processing stations comprises at least one heating station.

Claim 97 (Currently Amended): An The arrangement according to claim 93 for manufacturing compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

a filter tube feeding element;

a plurality of processing stations; and

a single conveyor into which filter tubes are deposited from the feeding element for supplying the filter tubes to the processing stations wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one filtering material feeding station and the at least one filtering material feeding station comprises two off-center arranged rotating discs that are respectively provided with bores, with the bores of one disc and the bores of the other disc being arranged so as to be aligned at one location.

Claim 98 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 93, wherein the at least one filtering material feeding station comprises at least one sliding element provided with bores.

Claim 99 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 93, wherein the at least one filtering material feeding station comprises at least one lever element provided with bores.

Claim 100 (Currently Amended): The arrangement according to claim 99 94, wherein the at least one filtering material insertion station comprises at least one first transfer means for inserting filtering material into the filter tubes.

Claim 101 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 100, wherein the at least one filtering material insertion station includes at least one second transfer means that functions from the opposite end of the filter tube as a counter stop to the at least one first transfer means.

Claim 102 (Currently Amended): An ~~The arrangement according to claim 97 for manufacturing compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry,~~ comprising:

a filter tube feeding element;

a plurality of processing stations; and

a single conveyor into which filter tubes are deposited from the feeding element for supplying the filter tubes to the processing stations wherein one of the processing stations comprises at least one filtering material feeding station and the at least one filtering material feeding station comprises two off-center arranged rotating discs that are respectively provided with bores, with the bores of one disc and the bores of the other disc being arranged so as to be aligned at one location, further including means for axially aligning the at least one filter tube with at least one of the bores.

Claim 103 (Previously Presented): The arrangement according to claim 102, wherein the axial aligning means is for aligning at least two of the bores with the filter tube.

Claims 104-106 (Canceled).

Claim 107 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for producing compound filters for products in the tobacco-producing industry, comprising:
a filter-tube feeding element;
a single conveyor into which filter tubes are insertable from the feeding element; and
a plurality of processing stations for being supplied with the filter tubes by the conveyor, wherein at least one of the processing stations is a filtering materials insertion station including means for inserting two portions of filtering materials into a filter tube in a single operational step.

Claim 108 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 107, wherein one of the processing stations comprises a rotating mechanism for rotating the filter tubes.

Claim 109 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 107, wherein the conveyor is a continuously circulating conveyor which conveys the filter tubes cross-axially.

Claim 110 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 107, wherein at least one of the processing stations comprises a filtering material feeding station that includes two rotating and eccentrically arranged discs that are respectively provided with bores, with the bores of one disc and the bores of the other disc being positioned so that they are aligned at one location.

Claim 111 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 110, including means for arranging at least one filter tube so that it is axially aligned with at

least two bores.

Claim 112 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 107, wherein at least one of the processing stations includes a filtering material feeding station comprising at least one of (a) at least one pusher element provided with bores and (b) at least one lever element provided with bores.

Claim 113 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 107, wherein the filter tube has one end and said means for inserting comprises at least a first transfer means for inserting the at least two portions of the filtering materials in a single operational step into the one end of the filter tube.

Claim 114 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 111, wherein the filter tube has another end opposite the one end, and the first transfer means comprises at least one first plunger and the filtering material insertion station includes at least one second transfer means for providing at the opposite end of the filter tube a counter support to the at least one first plunger.

Claim 115 (Previously Presented): A compound filter manufacturing system for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising:

- a filter-tube feeding apparatus;

- a single conveyor for conveying filter tubes supplied by the filter-tube feeding apparatus along a predetermined movement path; and

- a plurality of processing stations receiving filter tubes from the conveyor, said processing stations including at least one processing station for inserting at least two portions of filtering materials into at least one filter tube during one operational step.

Claim 116 (Previously Presented): The filter-manufacturing system according to claim 115, wherein one of the processing stations comprises a rotating device for rotating the filter tubes.

Claim 117 (Previously Presented): The filter-manufacturing system according to claim 115, wherein the conveyor is a continuously circulating conveyor for conveying the filter tubes cross-axially.